

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4897

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV, CM

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CAMEROON PRESIDENT AHIDJO TO IVORY
COAST

1. CAMEROON PRESIDENT AHMADOU AHIDJO PAID TWO-DAY PRIVATE VISIT TO IVORY COAST AUGUST 27-29. AHIDJO STOPPED IN IVORY COAST ON RETURN FROM MAURITANIA WHERE HE HAD HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT MOUKTAR OULD DADDAH. DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT AHIDJO WAS LISTED AS INCLUDING YADJI ABDULAYE, BOUBA BELLO AND SHEIK SISSOKO OF THE CAMEROON PRESIDENCY. ON IVORIAN SIDE, HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY WAS SURROUNDED BY CUSTOMARY ENTOURAGE OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERS.

2. PRESIDENTIAL PARTY REMAINED IN YAMOUSSOUKRO, HOME TOWN OF HOUPHOUETA-BOIGNY. IN ADDITION TO HOLDING TALKS ON VARIOUS MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST, THE TWO PRESIDENTS VISITED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE YAMOUSSOUKRO AREA, INCLUDING HOUPHOUET'S COFFEE AND COCOA PLANTATIONS.

3. IN COMMENTS TO PRESS BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR YAOUNDE AUGUST 29, AHIDJO SAID THAT A CAMEROONIAN DELEGATION OF EXPERTS WOULD SHORTLY BE SENT TO IVORY COAST TO STUDY IVORIAN AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS. AT END OF PRESS CONFERENCE, GOIC PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY INDICATED HE WOULD PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAMEROON IN FEBRUARY 1976.

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4. COMMENT: VISIT WAS LOW-KEY AND BILLED AS ROUTINE

"MEETING OF FRIENDSHIP" BETWEEN PRESIDENTS OF TWO
COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE HAD GOOD RELATIONS OVER THE
YEARS. HOUPHOUET HAD LAST SEEN AHIDJO IN MARCH WHEN HE
MADE BRIEF STOP IN YAOUNDE RETURNING FROM FRANCOPHONE
SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN BANGUI. COOKE

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